



Californians Against Waste

Conserving Resources. Preventing Pollution. Protecting the Environment.

June 16, 2017

Scott Smithline, Director
CalRecycle
Submitted via email

RE: Letter of Support – Waste Management Altamont Covered Aerated Static Pile Composting Facility

Dear Director Smithline:

Californians Against Waste (CAW) is in strong support of the application by Waste Management for a permit for a Covered Aerated Static Pile Composting Facility at Altamont.

As you are aware, our nonprofit, statewide environmental organization has been in existence since 1977 and we are dedicated to conserving resources, preventing pollution and protecting California's environment through the development, promotion and implementation of waste reduction and recycling policies and programs. As an environmental research and advocacy organization, we work with other environmental groups to identify, develop, promote and monitor policy solutions to pollution and conservation problems posing a threat to public health and the environment.

We have been working with policy makers and regulators statewide to expedite the development of compost projects like the one being proposed by Waste Management. While we do not favor specific project developers or technologies, the concept being proposed is in alignment with our goals to provide innovative yet proven technologies that can make communities more sustainable by conserving resources and diverting organic materials from disposal.

Processing organic waste into compost (like is proposed in this project) is an essential element of achieving the state's goals under AB 32, AB 1826, and SB 1383, as well as creating jobs and making a soil amendment that helps build healthy soils. Moreover, the technology being proposed by Waste Management is the Best Available Control Technology for composting.


Alameda County has led the way in reducing waste, passing groundbreaking organics-diversion requirements for the country's businesses and residents, before the rest of the country. Despite your very successful efforts to require source separation of organic materials and recyclables, the county's disposal stream continues to contain unacceptably high level of methane-generating organic waste.

Development of a composting facility at the Altamont Landfill will help the region divert even more organic waste that currently goes to area landfills and emits greenhouse gases (not to mention criteria pollutants and water quality impacts), while also reducing emissions related to the transportation of this waste stream.

This is an important project to develop as the state considers what actions it needs to take to move towards zero waste and avert catastrophic climate change. The state is in dire need of more organics recycling facilities like the one proposed here.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this project or the broader need for organic waste diversion in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "N. Lapis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick Lapis

Director of Advocacy